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# VICKS MAGAZINE

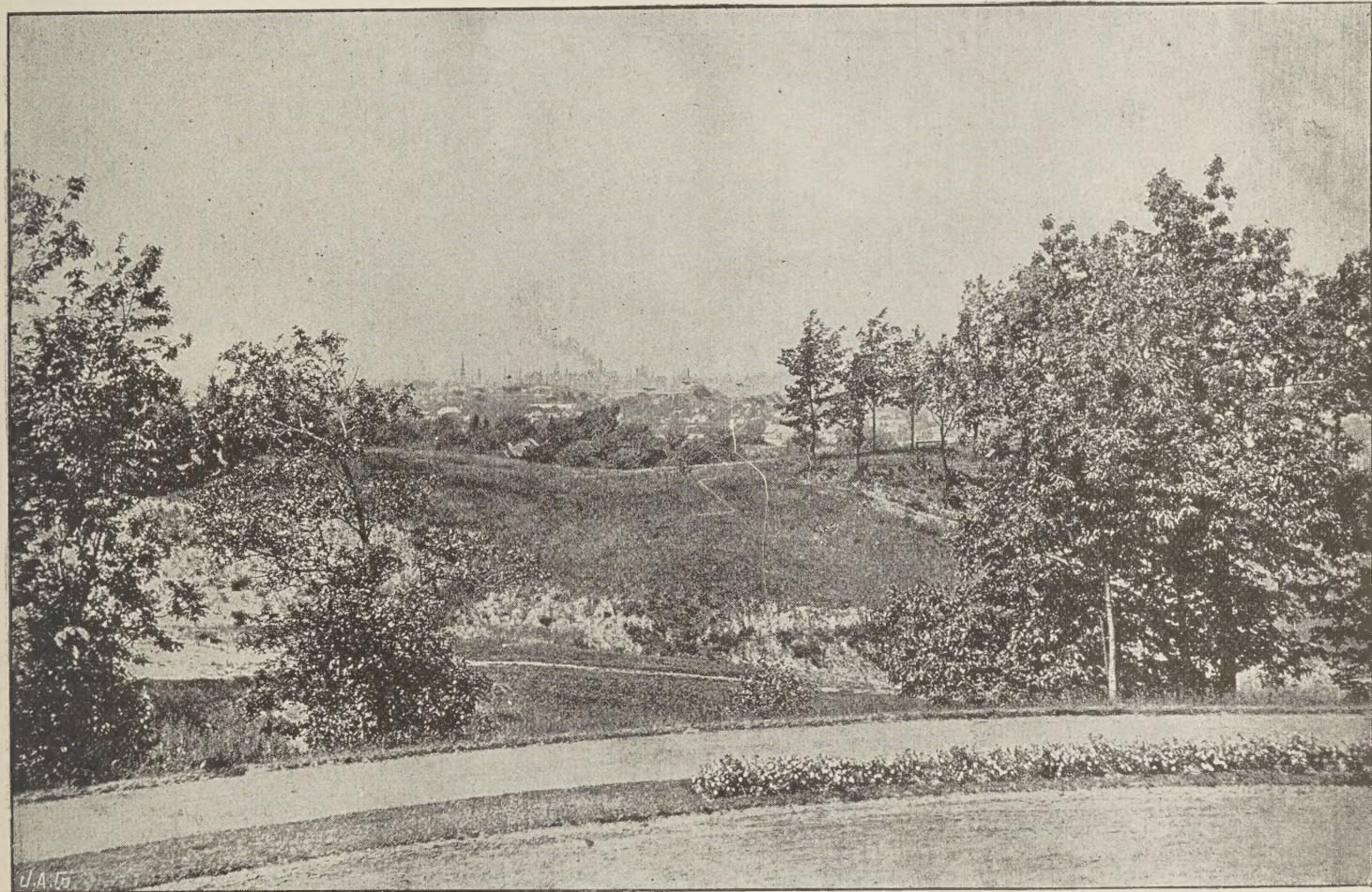
VOL. 20

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1897

No. 3

## PARKS AND RESIDENCE GROUNDS IN ROCHESTER.

FROM its early days Rochester, N. Y. has been noted for the horticultural tastes of its citizens, and especially for its beautiful tree-lined streets and its handsome residence lots and grounds planted with the choicest trees and shrubs. Within the last twenty years a system of large parks has been projected, grounds purchased and laid out, and much planting done. Although yet quite incomplete the grounds are becoming very handsome and, when finished, the Flower City will rank among the most beautiful on the continent. The engraving on this page gives a view in Highland Park with the city in the background.



## THE FLOWERING PEA BUSH.

IN September, 1895, the writer made a short visit to Dosoris, the noted country place of Charles A. Dana, on the south shore of Long Island Sound. An hour, that seemed to contain not more than fifteen minutes, was spent in the genial company of Mr. Wm. Falconer, who then had charge of the place, but who is now Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Parks. Of all the beautiful garden specimens there seen our present purpose is only to mention a magnificent clump of *Desmodium penduliflorum* which was in full bloom, and apparently every inch of growth was loaded with flowers. This clump was about eight feet in diameter, and presumably was composed of several plants in a cluster, but all growing together so that their individuality was lost. It stood out alone by itself, on the lawn, a little in advance of some other shrubbery. The peculiar drooping habit of the branches of the plant relieved the clump of all appearance of stiffness, in fact every line was a graceful one, and the varied tints of color in the buds and blossoms mingled with the green of the foliage presented a beautiful sight. This *Desmodium* has been planted in the park grounds of this

city, and last September we had the satisfaction of taking photographs from one in Highland Park from which the engravings on the next page were prepared. The general appearance of the plant is shown, and also a branch with its flowers, and a single flower of natural size. The leaves are trifoliate and alternately arranged along the branches, and from the axil of nearly all of them springs a raceme consisting of ten to twenty, or more, drooping flowers, mostly in pairs. The general color of the flowers may be said to be a pinkish lilac or rosy purple.

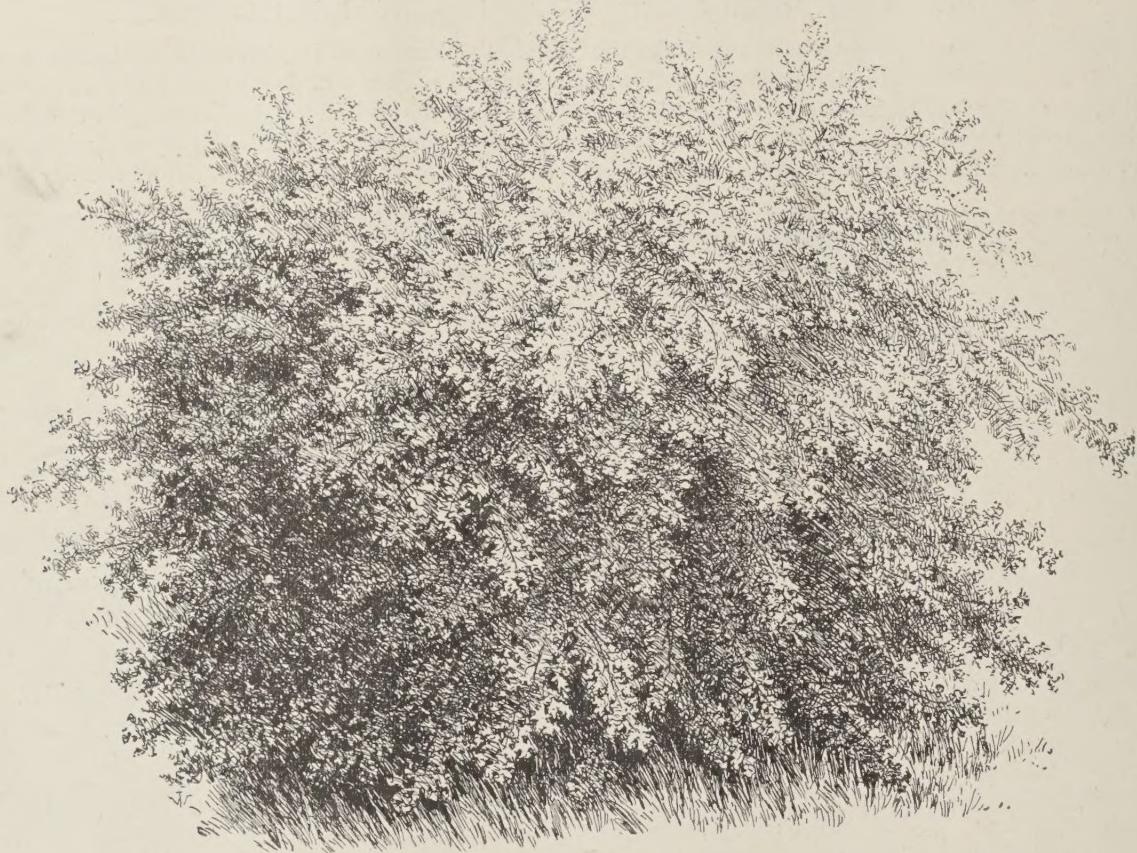
*Desmodium penduliflorum* is a shrub, that is, it has hard, woody stems, and the wood matures perfectly, still it dies down to the ground in winter. It does the same in the south of England and in France, and it is fully understood that this is a feature of the plant in any climate. It makes a new growth each spring from the roots, attaining a height of four or five feet. It is a remarkable fact that this plant, which has been planted to some extent in British gardens for the past twenty years, has only within recent years been tested in this country, and its general dissemination is but just commenced. That

it will be considered a most valuable acquisition to our gardens there is no question. It fills a place where there has always been a vacancy,—that of late blooming shrubs. It commences to bloom in July or August and continues until frost. In hunting up the history of the plant it is found to have received several different names besides the one already mentioned, such as *Desmodium Japonicum*, D. bicolor and D. racemosum.

I have had it in cultivation during the past four years, and have seen it elsewhere and in less favored localities, and have no doubt of its perfect hardiness. It is a plant of rapid growth, producing woody-looking stems about five feet high, but they are too slender to sustain the masses of beautiful rosy-purple flowers, and require a stake to support them. It is the nature of the plant to die down to the ground, but not from the effects of frost alone, as my plants were ripened down this season before we

however, had no other qualities of value than its beautiful and abundant August flowers, which last until frost, we should recommend it.

*Desmodium penduliflorum* for the Conservatory. There is no month of the year probably when the conservatory is so flowerless as in October, and therefore any good plant which can be grown and flowered easily at this time is acceptable. What are termed the summer-blooming plants are over, and Camellias, Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, and similar plants



DESMODIUM PENDULIFLORUM.

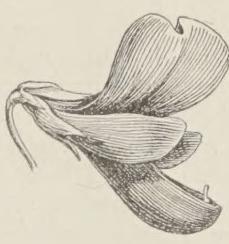
It has also been called *Hedysarum* and *Lespedeza*, which last it really is. A *Lespedeza* has but one seed in a pod, the *Desmodiums* have several seeds. This plant is a true *Lespedeza*, and Nicholson in his Dictionary of Gardening calls it *Lespedeza bicolor*. What was known as *L. bicolor* appears in different forms, and one of these is what the botanist Miquel

had frost sufficient to destroy vegetation. Each year adds fresh vigor to the plants, and increased beauty. It is a plant greatly to be recommended.

Here are two extracts taken from *The Garden, London*:

*The Pendulous Trefoil* (*Desmodium penduliflorum*). This *Desmodium* is one of the few plants that bloom in late summer and autumn,

are not yet in flower, but *Desmodium penduliflorum* is now in full bloom. We saw plants of it in Mr. Bull's nursery, Chelsea, the other day, furnished with long racemes of bright rosy-purple, pea-shaped blossoms, which are remarkably attractive. The plant is easily cultivated, graceful in habit, and flowers during the greater part of October and November. Either for the greenhouse, conservatory, or window, it



FLOWER,—NATURAL SIZE.

called *L. Sieboldii*. Recently there is a tendency to regard Miquel's view as correct, using the name *Lespedeza Sieboldii* as he gave it.

The name is of some importance, since it is understood that *L. bicolor*, a less desirable form, is also offered in the trade.

It may be interesting to know how this plant is regarded by those who have seen it in the gardens for some time. J. Tyerman, in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, says of the plant:

and it has a gracefully pendant habit and delicate foliage which is embroidered and tasseled with rosy-purple flowers resembling those of the pea. On many accounts the Pendulous Trefoil finds its most appropriate position in the mixed border of hardy herbaceous plants and hardy shrubs. Its habit of weeping to the ground gives it peculiar value for the outskirts of shrub groups where erect-growing shrubs or even trees need a certain amount of masking to secure their most artistic effect. If this plant,



A BRANCH WITH ITS LEAVES AND RACEMES OF FLOWERS.

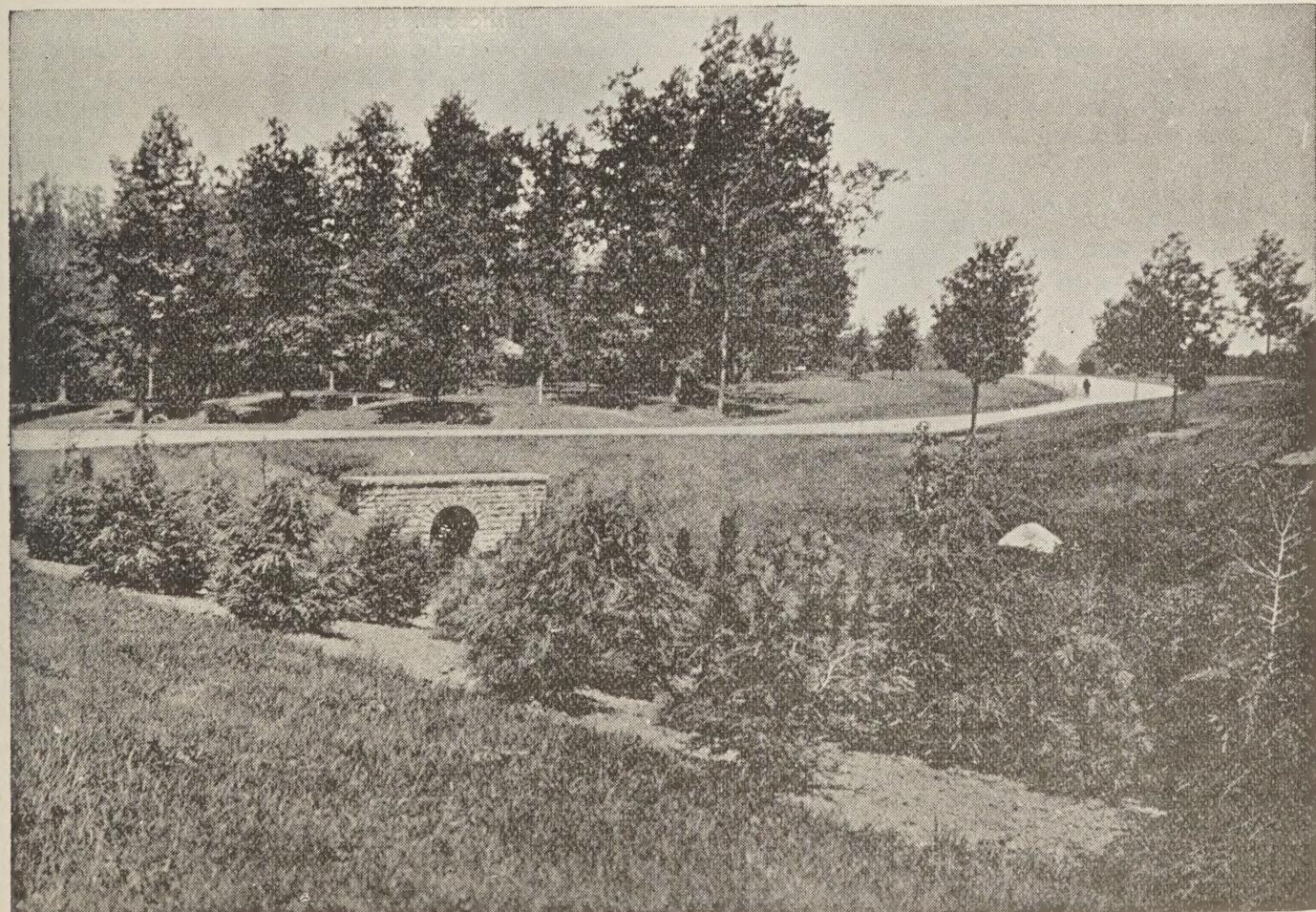
is well worth culture.

The reader will perceive that this Flowering Pea Bush or Pendulous Trefoil, *Desmodium penduliflorum*, according to the trade designation, and properly *Lespedeza Sieboldii*, is a plant of very much merit. As we have seen it thoroughly tested in this climate we do not hesitate to recommend it unreservedly. It is a desirable plant either for large or small grounds.



RESIDENCE OF MR. SAMUEL WILDER, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Virginia creeper over the side veranda, Lonicera Hallii over the main entrance, Chinese wistaria climbing high up at the corner of the house. Portion of a splendid specimen of purple-leaved beach at the right hand corner of the engraving.



SCENE IN SENECA PARK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

**SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.**

SOME years ago I sent for "balm" from the list of sweet herbs in the Guide; the seeds produced a hardy perennial, now in bloom. The leaves have a smell like lemons; to hand a twig to a visitor is sure to evoke an exclamation of pleasure. The flowers are small, yellow in the bud, dirty white when open, they amount to nothing, the perfumed foliage is what I prize it for. It could be used medicinally, no doubt, but I never did. It makes a dense mound of foliage, a foot or so high, and the strong, rough, deeply ribbed leaves are very good. It is the *Melissa officinalis* of Gray's manual.

JULY 5. The mixed petunias (*P. hybrida*) are beginning to bloom, having had a hard time because of the drouth. Here is a pure white one, edged and tinted with pale green; others are dark velvety crimson and white. In a garden near by is a petunia, a "Giant of California," so called I believe; there are many sorts and tints under this general term. This one has flowers so heavily notched and frilled that it is hardly recognizable as a petunia at first sight. Its colors are pure white and bright crimson, no two flowers alike. One will have a great Maltese cross of red, another is all white except a few fine red lines, a third nearly all crimson, just edged or lined with white, and so on. It passed the winter as a house plant in a pot.

I incline to conjecture the "Fire on the Mountain," *Euphorbia heterophylla*, wants more summer than I can give. Last year it was three feet high when frost came, but not a sign of colored foliage and probably would not have had any for some time. This year plants started very early in the house are only four inches high today. Of course, the intense drouth has something to do with this, but I imagine the sun is not quite sufficient here. Its green foliage is rich, and dark, and beautiful, a very interesting plant whether it becomes crowned with crimson or not, but after all its red bracts are what one wants to see. The "Snow on the Mountain," *Euphorbia marginata*, native to a more northern latitude, succeeds and self-sows; a singular looking plant. Its white floral leaves or bracts seem a mass of white bloom from a distance; as you come nearer you are at a loss to imagine what it is.

The spider-wort or spider lily, *Tradescantia Virginica*, is a fine hardy native perennial, a permanent affair once set, never seeding or spreading much, but growing and flowering as long as you live. The jointed stems are two feet high, the leaves are long and narrow, the flowers a bright blue. Each flower withers before night, but there will be a fresh supply in the morning, and so it goes on month after month. The flower has three petals and six yellow anthers; the blue hairs on

the stamens are pretty in a microscope. It is increased by dividing the root in spring or fall. The stalk I have just pulled is over three feet high and has three flowers, each about an inch across. A good clump, with its numerous stems, grass-like leaves and bright flowers, is a good plant to have.

It is said the white pond lily, *Nymphaea odorata*, can be grown in tubs, and so it can, but when I did so I failed to get any flowers. There was a wealth of foliage, some of the leaves were a foot across, overflowing and heaping up the tub it was in, but never a flower. I turned off the water late in fall and putting it in the cellar for the winter, filled the tubs with water again. So it went on some years. Finally I dammed a little creek that runs only in a wet time, intending to make a reservoir of water for my stock in winter, and here I sunk the great root. Then it began to flower and spread out its leaves, until there was a low mound ten feet or more across and a foot high in the center. At last a pair of muskrats came, these animals never being seen so far up stream before. Not thinking they would do any harm I paid them no attention, but working under the ice they cleaned out the water lily. So if you plant it in pond or stream, look out for muskrats, unless you raise enough for them and yourself too.

An Australian immortelle, or everlasting *Acroclinium roseum*, has yielded a picking or two, and the *Helichrysum monstrosum* is budding. These are all of their kind I have this year, but there is the *Ammobium grandiflorum*, *Helipterum Sanfordii* and *Rodanthe maculata*, all Australian or South African, all good and raised with ease; in fact the ammobium self-sows. I sowed several packets of the *xeranthemum* before I got a plant, both in window boxes and in open ground, and when at last I succeeded I didn't think much of it; its color was dull and the form nothing to brag of. The others are really choice flowers which no flower-lover should think of doing without. The acroclinium comes up the soonest of any seed I ever sowed, and all are as easy to grow as tomato plants and may be managed in the same way. The bloom of the helipterum is soon over with, but all the others, if not allowed to seed, last for a long time, and all if kept hoed will stand any amount of dry weather almost, and will produce a great many flowers. Gather them just before they open, they will open as they dry. Rodanthe and ammobium should not open at all,—they are better as buds. Anything more delicately beautiful than the pure white semi-transparent scales of the rodanthe's drooping flower overlapping the rose-red petals, just showing beyond and shining through them, is not seen every day. Tie in small bunches and hang up heads down; when dry pack in tight boxes, away from dust and light.

The sun should not shine upon them at all after gathering. Cut heads of oats and take walks along the woodsides to find beautiful grasses to be hung and dried and packed away, agrostis, poas, and what not, then one snowy December or January day, with the drifts piling up, open up your stores and be delighted with their brightness and beauty. Now take a sheet of smooth, thin pasteboard and sew your flowers and grasses upon it in the form of a wreath adding pressed ferns, autumn leaves, or anything else, enclosing a photograph or print, put a light box three inches deep into a rustic frame, and you have something a million times better than the dreadful "hair flowers" one sees so often, which are framed in the same way. These flowers are salable in the winter; my better half has realized quite a number of dollars in this way, first and last. It is her experience that very many people never saw or heard of such curious flowers. Some think it is all in the process and ask if geranium or other flowers could not be dried in the same way; others are astonished that they will do without water in the vase.

E. S. GILBERT.

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**EVERGREEN FERNS.**

In the Mississippi Delta the forests are green the year round. Winters are mild, sunshine warm and the air benign. Yet the rotation of the seasons is sufficiently decided to make manifest the change from one season to another. The monotony of continued summer, the cloying effect of the luxuriant, heavy growth of vegetation and fragrance of flowers that never cease to bloom, as in lands further south, here finds a very happy medium. Deciduous trees shed their leaves, evergreens deepen and intensify their shining hues and the tillandsia, or long grey moss, waves its pennons in a shade less dark than in summer.

The berry-bearing shrubs and trees, particularly the hawthorn, or *Crataegus*, and holly are at their brightest and best, sweet, ripe and mellow. The birds feed upon them and enliven the woods with contented chirping and vocal strains.

Although the Mississippi Delta is far south, where roses bloom and oranges hang ripe on the trees till Christmas, yet, in the "deep, dark woods, the cool, sweet woods," a rambler knows by many tokens that it is the winter time. There are magnolia, live oak, pine, cedar, orange and palmetto, that in emerald green brighten the deepest, darkest forest glades, or sparkle in the wintery sunshine in gardens of culture. All these are evergreen; but close beside them, as beautiful in evergreen hue as the best of any class, are the ferns. The fresh, transparent green of their graceful fronds of delicate and intricate construction bestow upon the ferns a lightness and dainty grace unequalled in the vegetable world. Nothing in green surpasses them here, for perfect

## AMONG THE WILD FLOWERS.

THE CLOSED GENTIAN.—September is the month for the fall flowers to begin their annual march through field and wood. The closed gentian is among the first to usher in the rich-hued cavalcade, with its blue, unopened bloom. The flowers grow in clusters on the top of the stalk, and in the axils of the lanceolate, opposite leaves, thus apparently in whorls. They are of a bright blue color at the top, shading to white at the base, about one inch in length and one-half inch in diameter at the middle.

The corolla remains tightly closed till it turns brown, shrivels up and dies. It is interesting to watch the bumble-bees working their way inside in quest of honey. They alight on the flower, push their heads through the orifice, or rather indenture, then kick and scramble as though their very lives depended on it, all the time making a mad buzzing till about two-thirds of their length is inside, when they contentedly extract the hidden sweet, scramble their backward way out, and, all covered with pollen, hasten to another flower, there to do the double service of fertilizing the flower and gathering the honey. The closed gentian is found in moist, shady places, but is easily cultivated and well worth the effort.

LOBELIAS.—The cardinal flower and the white and the blue lobelias are now in full bloom. These too, we find along the brookside like sentinels guarding the lines. As children, how we loved to gather the pretty flowers, and now, at sight of them the years roll backward and we seem to hear the shouts and laughter of the olden time. These too, may be cultivated, though with greater difficulty than the closed gentian.

THE SOLIDAGO.—The fence-rows are alight with the yellow plumes of the solidago, or goldenrod in its many varieties. Thirty-seven are described in "Gray's New Lessons and Manual of Botany." Some are holding their golden plumes above the fences, others are modestly draped with tiny tufts of flowers closely set in the axils of the leaves, while here and there we find a timid little one nest-

ling at the foot of some giant forest tree. Rarely we meet with a slender stalk whose flowers are white. The goldenrod we scarcely need to cultivate, for they are all around us, though any of them, at least, will thrive under cultivation.

CLEMATIS.—A beautiful vine, all white with delicate bloom, is now the Virgin's Bower, a native species of clematis. Sprays and sprays of bloom are festooning the bushes along the roadsides, and they who have transplanted it to the trellis or porch could ask no daintier draping for

## ANEMONE WHIRLWIND.

This semi-double form of the White Japan Anemone continues to grow in favor as it becomes known. It is scarcely three years when it was first sent out by James Vick's Sons, but like the White Branching Aster, sent out a short time before, it was quickly appreciated as a valuable late blooming plant. It is now being planted very generally, not only in the gardens of this country but in those of Great Britain, France, Germany and throughout Europe. To get the full effect of this anemone in

autumn a single plant is insufficient, though those having only one of them will regard it as a treasure. But it should be planted in a mass in a border, or it may occupy a large bed on the lawn, the plants standing about a foot apart, or it may line a walk, a border about eighteen inches wide being filled with it. In these ways it shows its sheets of white blossom at a time when there are few attractive flowers. Fortunately one can increase his stock by division of the roots every three or four years. It appears to be certain that the plants of Whirlwind are somewhat hardier than those of the original or single white form, and this is a distinct gain even if the plant possessed no other advantage, for the crown of the single form is sometimes so much injured by severe cold in winter as to prevent blooming the following autumn. This has never been known to occur to the double form. The enrichment of our gardens in late autumn with the anemone and the Branching Aster has been further complimented by the Clematis paniculata, another white flowering plant that supplies an unfailing wealth of bloom to walls and trellises in September and October. This also



ANEMONE WHIRLWIND.

the same. The flowers are lovely and when gone, the feathered seed-tails are just as pretty. Why send away for costly vines when our native wilds afford such beauties?

APIOS TUBEROSA.—This native plant is truly an interesting and admirable vine with its load of chocolate-colored flowers. To me the color is very attractive. One growing in our wild-flower bed is full of bloom, draping in beauty an unsightly old peach stub. And how curious the blossoms are, like bean flowers, of a droll blending of light and dark, reddish-leather color, closely crowded on a three-inch stem.

E. W. P.

is a Japanese floral treasure. Perhaps Japan may be recompensed for all these gifts, and hundreds of other to our gardens, by the ideas of western civilization which she has received. It is to be hoped that she may be guided as carefully to select only the good in this respect as we have been to take the choicest of her plants. Perhaps the care and cultivation of so many beautiful plants in Japanese gardens may be an indication of the culture of the Japanese mind, and reveal in a measure the mental capacity, which has often been a subject of surprise, to assimilate so easily modern scientific ideas and adopt the latest mechanical improvements.

# Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

## Pollenizer for Snyder Blackberry.

I want to know if the Snyder blackberry must have fertilizer or a feeder like strawberries, and if so, what it is. A fruit tree agent told me so this summer.

A. S.

Weaver, Ind.

The Snyder blackberry produces perfect flowers capable of self-fertilization, and does not need any other variety as a pollenizer.

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## Black Calla.—Hydrangea.

Will you kindly tell me through the Magazine if the black calla needs the same treatment as other callas?

My hydrangeas are in the cellar resting. When will be the time to bring them to the light? Should they be cut down and repotted?

C. V.

Newfoundland, N. J.

Black calla may be treated essentially the same as the common calla, or African lily.

The Hydrangea can be repotted, the branches shortened, and started to grow any time in February.

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## Nitrate of Soda for Strawberries.

I have read in one of your monthly Magazines that Nitrate of Soda is a very excellent fertilizer for strawberry plants. I have about five hundred plants in my garden which were set out last August and I wish to make an application of a fertilizer especially adapted to the growth and yield of the strawberry plant. Will you kindly answer in your next issue of the monthly Magazine how the application of Nitrate of Soda should be made? A definite answer to the foregoing question may benefit many readers of your Magazine.

A. G.

Patent Bridge, N. Y.

Nitrate of soda can be used on strawberries by sowing it broadcast over them early in the spring, at the rate of about 200 pounds to the acre, or a pound and a quarter to the square rod. To sow it evenly it may be best to mix it with an equal amount or twice as much sand, stirring and mixing thoroughly. There will be less danger of putting too much on in one place and too little in another if sowed in this way.

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## Fertilizers for Flowers.

1.—In *Garden and Forest*, Vol. V., 1892, John B. Smith says, that greenhouse soil infected with certain insects may be made sound by digging in kainit, and then, later, by adding nitrate of soda, as one wishes particular flowers to be at their best. He omits to state how much of these fertilizers may be safely used. Will you kindly tell me how much may be used of each to the square yard?

2.—A correspondent of Vick, some years ago, reported magnificent bloom from some gladiolus "beneath each of which she had placed a handful of bone meal." Would that mean that she laid the bulbs directly upon the bone meal, or that she dug a handful of bone meal thoroughly into the earth she planted them in?

SUBSCRIBER.

1.—One ounce of kainit to the square yard would make a very fair manuring, and probably be effective for the purpose of destroying insects, as mentioned. As a fertilizer it would be improved by mixing with it and applying at the same time one ounce of dissolved bone or superphosphate to each square yard. The nitrate of soda to

be applied later can be at the rate of one-half ounce to the square yard.

2.—It will be best to dig the bone meal into the soil.

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## Superb Pansies.

You expressed a wish in one of the Magazines that some of the successful growers of pansies would report, as well as those who fail. I first tried your Superb pansies last spring, sowing the seed early, in boxes in the house, transplanting to the outdoor bed as soon as the weather was warm enough. I had a little trouble with the grub-worm soon after setting the plants out, but by digging carefully for them every time I saw any signs, the plants were soon free from that enemy, growing finely and blooming in great beauty all through the summer and early autumn. We made the pansy bed on top of a ledge that cropped out in the yard, and which was looked upon as a great nuisance, as it occupied such a large part of the yard, being greatly in the way. We made round beds by piling up beach stones and filling in with good garden soil, and old stable manure for fertilizer; watered once a week with liquid manure from the hen-house. How much enjoyment grew out of that little fifty-cent package of seeds can never be told! We had pansies for church decoration and public entertainments, lovely bunches for sick friends, quantities of them in our own home, and a basket of the beauties carried their message of sweet thoughts to a bride on her wedding day. Besides, many strangers stopped to admire the thrifty little pansy bed growing close to the roadside and in sight of every passer-by. They are so beautiful arranged on a basket piled high with green moss, or on a large mound of moss; with stems wound in wet cotton they keep fresh many hours. I am so in love with this superb flower that I have made a new bed close to the old one, and am going to try to have twice as many next summer.

MRS. F. W. T.

Cutler, Maine.

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## Cosmos, Late Blooming.

I have tried two or three years to get satisfactory results from Cosmos seed, being fond of the flower. This year the plants grew to enormous size, except a few which were in the shade, and none began to bud till very late and were cut off by frost though they were started early in the house. Others here have had the same experience. Ought they not to bloom before frost, and should they grow so rank? Aster treated the same, and in the same soil, did well. Is there a dwarf variety which is better, or can't they be depended on for a fall flower?

SUBSCRIBER.

Kankakee, Ill.

The trouble here complained of is one which all are subject to who raise the cosmos. There is, as yet, no good early strain of seeds of this plant. It is a native of a warm climate and requires a long time to mature. The best course to pursue in northern gardens, would probably be to start the seeds in the house, as early as March, and as the plants begin to come on keep them near the light, and give air as frequently as possible. Put them in the smallest sized pots at first, and shift frequently, using only a size larger each time. By this treatment the plants will become more stocky and branch more closely, thus becoming somewhat checked in height, but with more branches, and will have a tendency to come earlier into bloom. Plant out about the middle of June in a piece of somewhat poor ground.

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## Some Test Crops in 1896.

A few suggestions from the leaf of '96 experience may interest and help some one. The farmers of the West have passed through four successive droughts that tried the drought resisting qualities of their different crops. The principal crop here is corn, and as it had been a complete failure in '93, '94 and '95, we thought we would try Vick's White Cap Yellow Dent the spring of '96. We sent for two bushels and it was planted and cultivated the same as the rest of the field of 130 acres. You could tell the very row

where the White Cap Yellow Dent ended, from the time of the first plowing until harvested. It was much finer looking corn when growing and yielded a third more to the acre, and produced good solid ears entirely free from chaff. We expect better results the present year under the same conditions, as we understand it better. We also gave Vick's Early Leader tomato a test of its vitality. The seed was sown in a box and produced nice, sturdy plants that were set in the open ground the 12th of May. The night of the 15th of May all froze to the ground. I supposed that was the last of them, for they had just been planted out, but nearly every plant started, branched from the "stumps" and grew rapidly. The flower buds were found on them when on the 15th of June a heavy hail storm beat them to the ground; I was disgusted with gardening, with drought, frost, hail, and a thousand insects to contend with, and I gave up hopes of a garden for the season. But the garden was not as easily discouraged as I, and these tomatoes grew, as if trying to make up for lost time. They gave us bushels of green fruit and considerable ripe fruit. I have no means of knowing how much, as we used them from the vines, and used them freely. I am satisfied that Vick's Early Leader is all right even in this droughty, windy country. The greatest trouble heretofore has been to get early tomatoes, as we usually have late, cool springs and early frost. I think the Leader is ahead of anything we have tried.

N. B. H.

Imperial, Neb.

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## The Calla.

So many articles have appeared in the various floral magazines in regard to the culture of the calla, and each containing some different directions that an amateur is tempted to say: "Whose advise shall I follow? Which writer understands the subject and is able to give the proper instruction?"

I remember reading in a magazine the statement that "the calla (so called) is not a calla at all!" But there the intelligent correspondent stopped, and we were left to grope in darkness, and call it—what? I called the attention of a florist to this statement, and the answer I received was: "It is the Richardia; the calla is a plant growing on the borders of ponds and bogs, and is called Calla palustris, or the water arum." So now I know what to call the plant.

A few notes from an amateur's experience with this prince of plants may not be amiss, but my present method of treatment is not one of cast iron, and I shall willingly change to one radically different if I think it will materially improve the result.

Early in the fall of 1895 I obtained several dry tubers of the Richardia Ethiopica and R. alba maculata, or spotted calla. These were potted in four-inch pots, with a light compost and watered daily with warm water, until growth commenced. When the young plants were about four inches high, they were removed to eight-inch pots and the "forcing" process commenced. This was only the use of a daily bath of hot water,—the pots being placed in a suitable vessel and hot water poured in until the pots were nearly submerged and allowed to stand until the water cooled. With this treatment the plants grew wonderfully; but, unfortunately, I was permitted to see only four in bloom—those being of the spotted variety. The blooms were very pretty, but, of course, small, as is their habit, measuring perhaps only four or five inches. The charm of R. alba maculata lies wholly in the foliage, a rich green in color, and spotted and striped with almost transparent silver.

In the spring of the present year I potted two bulbs of R. Ethiopica, the principal purpose being to ascertain the value of the hot water treatment. Membranaria were kept of the different stages of growth as follows:

Tubers potted in three and one-half inch pots on May 12th, one being labeled No. 1, the other No. 2. The first sign of growth was manifested in No. 1 on May 19th, when a small shoot appeared. No. 2 was a close second, appearing on May 21st.

Both plants were repotted on June 5th; No. 1 being put in a seven-inch pot and No. 2 in one of six inches.

The hot water treatment was then commenced and on June 30th, No. 1 measured twelve inches high, with three strong leaves. The other stood ten inches above the pot and bore three leaves from the main stem and one shoot. During the month of July the plants advanced rapidly and on August 1st stood seventeen and fifteen inches respectively. Misfortune then overtook them. I was away for a few days and the plants were sadly neglected, being left where the rays of the sun during the extremely hot weather of the first few days of August beat fully upon them. The result was soon apparent—the foliage was shriveled and burned, and the removal of one leaf on No. 1 and three on No. 2 was necessary; and since that time the original leaves have all been removed.

In a few days, however, the sturdy character of the plants asserted itself and new growth commenced. At this time (Oct. 20) No. 1 boasts of three leaves, strong and healthy and seventeen inches tall, and its companion follows with two leaves which measure fourteen inches and several shoots.

Blossoms would, no doubt, have appeared ere this, had not misfortune overtaken them and cut them down in their prime.

Experience has thus far shown the hot water treatment to be the essential feature of calla culture, but the hot sun should be avoided if choice plants are desired.

FRED.

++

#### A Tuberous Rooted Ipomoea.

Not having seen any mention made in your catalogue of 1896, of a vine we have in this vicinity, the Ipomea palmata, or Mexican morning glory, and having had the pleasure of owning one last year, I thought perhaps you might be interested in the matter, at least to the extent of reading my experience with it. I am not a florist, and my knowledge of botany is limited, but I will try to describe it the best I can.

The bulb.—I purchased last spring a small bulb about four inches long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, which I planted between a shed and brick walk, in a hole dug in the solid clay, about two feet by ten inches and twelve inches deep. This hole I filled with good soil and covered the bulb about an inch.

The vine.—From the bulb, three shoots soon appeared all about as large in diameter as a pencil. These shoots had a very rapid growth in favorable (warm) weather, growing from twelve to eighteen inches per twenty-four hours. I should say that during the season the vine grew to a length of seventy-five feet, as it was necessary to train it in all directions on a shed twelve by nine feet high, which it more than covered. It continued to grow until killed by the frost.

The blossom.—Similar to a convolvulus; color, a blue pink, with deep wine colored throat. Size, about five inches across, opens in the morning and remaining until about 10 A. M., and does not re-open. Have counted as high as ninety open at one time, and from the time the plant commenced to bloom it was never without a flower.

The leaf.—Seven pointed, or fingered, dark green, slightly rough on under side, from eight to twelve inches in diameter.

Seed.—As per samples enclosed. Three in a capsule per sample, also enclosed. Of the great number of flowers but few seed formed, and I think less than one-half of one per cent. is a fair estimate.

From the above description it will be noted that the vine covers an immense surface, requires but little soil, and is very showy.

Upon digging up the bulb in the fall, I found it had increased to such an extent that it would not go into a good size water pail, being about fourteen inches in diameter and would weigh about fifteen pounds. I could find no new bulbs or offsets, and but two or three small roots attached to lower part of bulb.

I now have three seeds planted under glass in the house, but as they have not been planted long, I cannot tell whether they will germinate.

I am sending you the seed capsule and three seeds for your inspection, and if you desire, I can send you a few more to test. Will also be pleased to give you any further information possible should you desire it.

I expect to experiment with some few seeds, but as it is entirely new to me, and I fear not having the proper facilities, I would be pleased to have your suggestions as to the best course to pursue. S. B. P.

St. Louis, Mo.

From the description here given this is probably the same plant that was offered last season by some dealers as Ipomoea Mexicana, but it is to be doubted that either the name Mexicana or palmata properly belongs to it. Nor are we able to give its correct specific name. If successful in raising a plant from the seeds received we shall endeavor to identify it next summer. It may be best for our correspondent to sow a few seeds at different times during the winter, so that if anything should happen to the plants of one sowing there may be another lot to take their place.

#### Mushroom Beds.

We started two mushroom beds in the same manner described in your November issue, and the one first spawned, failed. Now we have heard something about a natural spawn forming and producing after the first crop. Would you please let us know in your Letter Box if it is so, and if so at what time may we expect it. The mushroom beds are in a dark cellar at a temperature of from 54° to 60°. If there is nothing to be expected from that first bed, will it be advisable to spawn it over again after having worked it over with some fresh manure? The second bed is doing fairly well in spite of snails and perhaps some field-mice that got into the cellar during the warmer weather. We set traps for the mice and destroy the snails when we see them, but there is still some depredation, and we would like you to tell us of some poison for the snails and wood-lice and not harm the mushrooms.

New York City.

Nothing can be expected from the Mushroom bed that failed to spawn. If the bed heated properly and has passed through its fermenting stage, the material will be of little use now a second time. The proper thing to do is to make up a new bed with fresh manure. The same soil can be used again. If the bed still contains some heat it might be possible to line it with fresh manure and increase the heat. This is done by working out the manure underneath, for a certain height from the bottom and replacing it with fresh, fermenting manure. But the bed worked over in this way, though it might help to bring on a second crop, could hardly be depended upon for the first spawning. The only safe way would be to make a new bed with fresh material.

Snails can be caught by laying pieces of cabbage, potato or turnip on the bed and on the floor, and going at night with a light and picking them up. Drop them in a dish of salt or brine which will kill them.

Wood-lice can be lured in the following way: Place a cold boiled potato or a piece of one in a small flower pot, and over it place a loose layer of moss. Leave some of the moss hanging out over the edge and lay the pot on its side on the bed or anywhere in their way. The moss hanging outside will entice them to enter. The wood-lice feed in darkness and go into their hiding places at dawn. But as the cellar is dark they will remain in the pot under the moss. In the morning the pots can be taken out and the vermin destroyed. Bait several pots in this way and it will not take long to clean them all out.

\* \* \*

#### Pasture Grass in Western Minnesota.

You will oblige me by letting me know what kind of grass you think is adapted for central western Minnesota for permanent pasture. The land I wish to sow it on was once a lake, the soil is very rich mixed with clay. Timothy does not do well in this country, the months of July and August being too dry for it. If you will let me know what grass would do well here, you will oblige.

J. J. H.

Clinton, Minn.

As the editor was not prepared to answer this question he submitted it to Mr. Wm. M. Liggett, Chairman of the Agricultural Experiment Station, at St. Anthony Park, Minnesota, and in due time received from the Vice-Chairman and Agriculturist of the Station, Mr. Willet M. Hayes, the reply which here follows:

#### ST. ANTHONY PARK, MINN., Jan. 4, 1897.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of Dec. 31st to Col. Wm. M. Liggett is in my hand for answer. Your correspondent asks what kind of grass is best to sow in central western Minnesota on land once a lake, the soil very rich and on which timothy does not do well as the months of July and August are too dry. In the first place permanent pastures and meadows in the section named are not a success and not the best general plan for raising hay or other rough forage for stock in this rather dry climate, and timothy remains in a condition to produce good crops only a very few years, two to four, after seeding. In spite of the fact that drouthy seasons often prevent new seeding from catching, it is better to count on letting the timothy seed lay two or three years, preferably two in most cases. If this plan is followed up the fields in timothy will often have to lie from three to four years on account of failure to get a catch of new seedlings. This is true not only because the timothy fails to yield well after having been in the ground for more than two years, but also because timothy sod is helpful to growing grain crops, and oftener reseedings and rotations furnish more sod for growing grains. It pays to sow clover only one or a few pounds per acre as clover has not as yet done well in that section but may later on, as we all know clover is progressing north-westward. None of the other standard grasses do well for meadow.

Bromus inermis (Hungarian Brome grass) is coming into prominence rapidly as a grass to sow for meadows, but it is likely that this will last but a few years longer than timothy, and from the fact that the seed costs considerable per acre it would probably pay to leave it as long as it would do well, two to five years, possibly longer. We very much need information regarding this grass under the varying conditions of the different seasons and different soils.

Your correspondent asks some particulars about permanent pastures. Permanent pastures are not an economical thing in the general plan of the farm, except those portions that cannot well be cultivated. If this lake bottom could be drained far more money could be made by putting in rotations of crops. These rotations may be made comparatively easy by allowing the grass to lay only a few years. The natural yield of pasture will be greater in this way on those lands in grass, than if the stand of grass is allowed to lie for a number of years. This change requires more or less fencing, but wire and posts are comparatively cheap and moving the barb wire fences, by rolling the wire on barrels, is not nearly so difficult nor so expensive as many people believe. It is far less expensive than to allow pasture sod to lie until it is no longer yielding good annual crops for the stock. A far better way, however, to get at this matter is to sow one-half to two-thirds the amount of pasture required by stock and then sow corn, sorghum and similar crops for pasture in summer time. From the first of July until the middle of September the pastures will have again grown, so as to furnish feed for a short time in the fall. These summer crops sown one-half bushel to one and one-half bushels per acre will make a great deal of feed and better condition of the stock throughout the summer than to depend upon dry pasture, and will amply repay for labor of moving a few fences. These crops will allow much more land for grain as so much pasture is not needed, and this prepared land can be used for grain the next year.

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#### Picotee.—Anemone Japonica.—Swainsonia.—Hyacinth and Narcissi.

I never see picotees named in catalogues now. In the year 1865 I had a number of seeds sent by your CONCLUDED ON PAGE 41.

**HALL'S**  
**Vegetable Sicilian**  
**HAIR RENEWER**

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.  
 Sold by all Druggists.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1897.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as  
second class mail matter.

**Vicks Illustrated Monthly Magazine** is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers. These rates include postage: One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents. One copy for twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full advance payment, One dollar. **A Club** of five or more copies, sent at one time, at Forty Cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

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All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to VICK PUBLISHING CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

#### Our Magazine.

On account of causes unavoidable, the present issue of this publication reaches our readers at a late date. However, though late, we trust it will be found acceptable, and prove both entertaining and instructive. Its somewhat improved appearance will be noted. It is hoped and expected that hereafter it will reach subscribers by the first of the month, or in the early part thereof, also that it will continue to increase in attractiveness and usefulness. It is intended to be helpful to its readers both by suggestions and explicit instructions, and faithful accounts of practical work, and, it is hardly necessary to say that we welcome for publication the statements of successes and failures with which our friends meet in their various horticultural fields of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Nothing is more helpful than recitals of personal experience in garden work, and we trust this statement will be taken, as it is meant to be, for a general invitation to our readers to give us accounts of their work. The Letter Box is always ready to receive inquiries, and faithful attention will be given answering them. We wish all a happy and prosperous year in their gardens.

\*\*

#### Disease of Sweet Peas.

For two years past, and more, complaints have been received from various parts of the country of the failure of the vines of the sweet pea while in bloom. The plants show the disease at the base of the stem. At different times this subject has been referred to in our pages. It has baffled the arts of the most expert growers. In the Letter Box of July, last year, were published two letters complaining of the disease and making inquiries for remedies. We published also at that time the opinion of Mr. Hutchins, the celebrated sweet pea amateur of this country. Mr. Hutchins mentioned the disease as a blight or mildew, but had

no theory of its cause, though he had had considerable experience with it in his own practice.

At that time we ventured an opinion which had, in substance, been previously offered in these pages, and which was thus expressed:

For ourselves, without having any remedy to offer, we will say that we quite distrust the making up of trenches with heavy quantities of manure wherein to sow the peas, and our aim would be to change the site from year to year, each time selecting a place in the garden that had been well enriched for a crop the year before, using no manure directly for the peas, —or at most a dressing over the whole ground, before sowing, of some good commercial fertilizer.

We are pleased to see that Mr. Hutchins is now accepting this opinion as indicating correct practice. In a somewhat lengthy article covering a variety of topics under the general title of Nature as a Guide to Floriculture, lately published in *Amateur Gardening*, and while on the subject of sweet peas, he says:

Now nature also teaches that seed should be, as a rule, sown more shallow. Nature doesn't plow deep furrows and bury seed in them. How lightly the seed falls to the ground. Probably it gets either washed in or covered with some kind of natural mulching. \* \* \*

I don't want you to ask me why I have advocated deep planting of sweet peas. Certainly our trench method has been largely the cause of the blight that has so nearly discouraged us. \* \* \* I shall abandon the trench method, although if you have a shallow, worthless soil, you must do something to deepen and enrich it, and the easiest way is to dig liberal trenches of good depth and build the soil out of good compost and loam; but do not fail to put at least eight inches of earth over any kind of stable manure you use. \* \* \* Our trenching method has left the soil under our rows so soft and hot that it is like a feather bed in summer. It has softened and weakened the plants, and by filling the earth around them we have smothered our tender babies. We must give the roots of our plants more work, and the sprouts more air and sunlight, and I believe we shall see the end of the blight.

We think if our readers follow the more natural method indicated in planting sweet peas, there will be but little seen of the disease.

\*\*

#### Improved Danish Ballhead Cabbage.

This variety was introduced by James Vick's Sons, in 1887, a small quantity of the seed having been received from a gardener on one of the Baltic Sea islands. After a thorough test it was evident that the variety was entirely distinct and of great value, and it was put into the trade. Still, it took years to establish its claims. When, at last, the cabbage growers of Orleans County, in this State, learned of its superior qualities, its fame rapidly spread. The cabbage is now being largely raised for distant shipment in car loads, considerable quantities being sent as far as the State of Washington. In Western New York and Pennsylvania the growers

of this variety have hundreds of tons of the cabbage in storage. One firm alone, at Fairport, N. Y., has several hundred tons, holding over for early spring sales. It is almost impossible to procure a sufficient supply of the seed, and, owing to the demand, some dealers are offering substitutes, under the names, "The Emperor," "German Export," "Hollander," "Diamond Winter," etc., etc. In all of these varieties we have detected the old English variety "Cannon Ball" as predominating. But they are all greatly inferior. The heads of the Danish Ballhead are of medium size, with few outer leaves, and average in weight from six to seven pounds. The demand for this variety is very great in all the large cities, quantities of it being sold in Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia, etc., where it brings prices in advance of all other kinds.

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#### Meehan's Monthly.

The December number of *Meehan's Monthly* that closes its sixth volume contains a colored plate of Rudbeckia fulgida, one of our native plants which is considered worthy of cultivation. Its pages, as usual, contain much interesting matter for plant cultivators and the lovers of nature. The editor mentions closing the volume with pleasure, "and with renewed life and energy for another year's experience." And we would add that we hope for him still many years experience.

Mention is made in the number referred to of a recommendation by a correspondent to try a little of the tincture of nux vomica in the water used for cut flowers, as in his experience it tends to maintain their "freshness to a very unusual degree."

Another correspondent recommends *Ceanothus Americana*, or "Jersey Tea" as a plant for forming a low hedge.

\*\*

#### Horticultural Meeting.

On the 27th and 28th of this month the Forty-second Annual Meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society will be held in this city. A large attendance and an interesting meeting is expected. Many subjects will be presented of great importance to fruit growers, gardeners and amateur cultivators. Some reports of the meetings will be found in future numbers of this journal.

# Take CARE

Look out for your physical health. Do not allow your system to get into a debilitated or run-down condition at this season, as you thus invite colds, fevers, pneumonia, bronchitis. See that your blood is pure, and to make it pure and keep it so, to prevent sickness and maintain health, take

# Hood's Sarsaparilla

The best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

**Hood's Pills** are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

# Letter Box.

CONCLUDED.

father and among them were those of the picotee. The seeds were sown in a hot bed early in the season and they bloomed the same season giving me blossoms as handsome and as sweet as any carnation, though not as large. I have not had any since. I suppose they were hardy, but as I went to England in November of that year, remaining there and in the island of Guernsey ten months, and after my return had no garden of my own, I could not test their hardiness. I should very much like to try them again.

I wish for some information in regard to the *Anemone Japonica alba*. I had some plants of it from you two years ago and again last spring, this last I sent for through a local florist, but they have made no growth, seem to dwindle away and perish. Just before winter set in this year there was a little sprig alive with a couple of leaves; I took it up and potted it and it is alive, but makes no growth. I did not suppose it required any special treatment. Does it?

Again, does the *swainsonia* need any special treatment? I had two last spring; one died, the other made about four inches of growth and I thought it was going to shed its leaves, but it did not, and keeps green but makes no growth.

What can be done with the bulbs of Roman hyacinth and white paper narcissus after they have bloomed in the house? If they were planted out of doors in the spring, would they stand the winter out of doors if well covered with litter or leaves? I do not like to throw them away.

I. B.

*Peoria, Ill.*

The picotee is a *Dianthus* similar in character to the garden carnation, but differing from it merely in having the flower marked with a ring around the edge; each petal having a band of color on its margin different from the ground color, and thus making a colored ring about the edge of the flower. A carnation has one solid color, when it is called a self, or the petals are striped from the center to the edge. The term picotee is therefore merely used to indicate a dianthus with a ring or colored border around the circumference of the flower. The picotee is as hardy as the garden carnation, and the plants are raised and treated in the same manner. Seedsmen who keep seeds of the carnation are usually also able to supply those of the picotee. They are both of them beautiful flowers and every garden should contain them in abundance.

*Anemone Japonica alba* and the double flowered variety, Whirlwind, are plants of strong vitality, and young plants put out in the spring in good soil will make a strong growth, and usually bloom the first season. The plants are hardy in the open ground in all parts of the country.

The *swainsonia* is a plant which likes a cool, moist atmosphere, and on this account it often proves to be a failure in house culture where a heat of 65° to 75° is maintained, and a dry air.

Bulbs of Roman hyacinths and paper-white narcissus which have bloomed in pots in the house, early in winter, will have ripened by springtime and so there will be no occasion to plant them out. But such bulbs will not again give the satisfaction they already have, and are, therefore, comparatively worthless; in

fact, they will not be found worth the trouble of trying them again, and the proper thing to do is to throw them out as soon as through blooming.

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## THE TREES OF THE COUNTRY.

If one wants to learn our native trees, so as to be able to tell them at sight, there can be no better way to make their acquaintance than by the means provided by the publishers G. P. Putnam & Sons, New York, in "The Leaf-Collector's Handbook and Herbarium." This is intended as an "Aid in the preservation and in the classification of specimen leaves of the trees of North-eastern America." This Handbook is by Charles A. Newhall, author of "The Trees of North-Eastern America." It contains the drawings and descriptions of the leaves of all the native trees, and the most important introduced and naturalized trees in the territory designated. And the book is so bound with inter-folio stubs, that space is afforded for mounting on the pages opposite the drawings the speci-

mens of dried and pressed leaves, all being thus included under the same cover. Full directions are given for all necessary operations, and a complete "Guide" table directs and enables the student easily to determine his specimens when found. One hundred and thirty-two species are figured in all. This valuable handbook and herbarium is published at the low price of two dollars.

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## QUEEN VICTORIA'S SIXTY YEARS.

On the 20th day of June of the present year Queen Victoria will have completed sixty years of sovereignty—a length of time unequalled by any other British monarch. Proposals are under discussion at the present time by those interested for a Horticultural Memorial of some kind of the Queen's reign. What shape this proposition will finally take, will probably be decided and published soon. For London it may possibly be a building which shall be devoted to the interests of gardeners and the advancement of horticulture. But memorial trees, the suggestion of which has not been noticed, would be appropriate everywhere over the world in the imperial domain.

If we could teach the Indians to use SAPOLIO it would quickly civilize them &

CLEANS, POLISHES, SCOURS.

Whether you write, or send, or ask for it, insist on getting - SAPOLIO.

## EVERGREEN FERNS.

CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 36.

beauty, summer and winter. Botanists, artists, travelers and sight-seers, all who write, paint or describe the beauties of nature in the forests that surround New Orleans and border Lake Ponchartrain, give prominence to the wild ferns. There are many kinds, but the common pteris or brake, the *Polypodium vulgare* and the little parasitical *Polypodium incanum* and the holly fern are evergreen. They are not as exquisite in delicacy and grace as the adiantum or maidenhair and by no means compare with the filmy ferns, *hymenophyllums*, which are so bright and airy in grace that when full-grown specimens are set in front of roses or lilies in bloom, they do not obstruct, but most beautifully enhance the view of the flowers they enveil with green fronds so light that a breath stirs them in gently undulating movement.

Even the *osmunda* and *aspidium*, and the adiantum and *hymenophyllum* require conservatory care if kept in green growth; the roots of them all are hardy here, the fronds dying down to the root, to be revived by annual spring and summer growth.

It is when Christmastide with its heavy demand for evergreens for decoration, is at hand, that these hardy, evergreen ferns rise in importance beyond the softer, sweeter kinds of summer growth alone. Compared with the sturdy yeomanry from the forests, that stand ranged in ranks in the city markets, of holly, cedar, arbor vitæ, palmetto and even pine, the holly fern and the brake appear quite beautiful. Apparently fragile they are yet as hardy in growth as any evergreen of the whole array. Holly fern is common to the wild woods of America from Maine to the Gulf Coast, and is evergreen in the cold sections where the holly tree itself will not grow. The pteris is a very strong growing fern that troubles farmers by taking possession of whole fields, but it is not evergreen in northern sections. In Louisiana it is unfading in a shade of lively green and the broad, deeply pinnatifid fronds grow so tall and dark that the lakes and water-sides are bordered by billowy masses, as green and fresh at Christmas as many plants that have been matured and cared for in the hot-house. These two ferns are cut and sent into the city by the thousands, and are every way available for decoration. The holly fern is tough in leaf construction and will retain its form and color as long as cedar or pine. Pteris, as

it withers, emits a sweet perfume that permeates a heated apartment, and mingles with the pungent, balsamic breath of evergreen branches, which may not be a perfume, but is a wild-woody, refreshing aroma.

An outing to the forest is ever a source of pure delight, and mid-winter is as good a time as any to "steal awhile away from cumbering care" and search for the bright green fern in picturesque nooks and corners, in the heart of the wild woods. Although green trees abound in southern forests and many wild flowers are untouched by the cold, still there are fallen leaves, withered ferns and dry grasses sufficient to give to the bright, evergreen ferns of hardy growth an increased beauty by comparison.

GEORGE TORREY DRENNAN.  
New Orleans, La.



## WILD FLOWERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATES.

This work consists of three hundred and eight sketches of plants common to the Northeastern United States, drawn from life, and described. It is the work of two ladies, Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting. The drawings are life size, and while they are not elaborately worked out they present a natural effect, easily conveying a correct idea of the plants they represent. The descriptions are in simple language that any reader can understand, and the common names of the plants are given as well as the botanical ones. The writers say: "It was with no desire to compete with scientific botanies that this collection of flowers was gathered together, but with the hope of making their acquaintance more easy to non-scientific folk than the much condensed manuals of our flora are able to do." We can say that this work indicates progress in the right direction. Probably no better means can be employed to interest people in the examination and study of plants than good

drawings of the same. The great difficulty with a beginner is to know what a plant is when he sees it. After he has once made the acquaintance of a few that he can call by names, as of friends, he will commence to be interested in others, and perhaps be led to a systematic study of them. In a collection of drawings of the size of this one, many plants which it would be desirable to have shown must necessarily be omitted, but those that are figured are such as will be very apt to be seen in all the territory named, and even over a far wider range. Each drawing occupies a full page, and opposite to it is a page of description. The frontispiece consists of a colored plate of the Wild senna, *Cassia Marilandica*. The book is in small quarto form, well-printed and substantially bound in heavy muslin or buckram. It can be recommended for the use of young people, and for teachers in primary school grades. One use to which it might well be put would be that of painting the drawings to correspond to the natural specimens that might be found to work from. It could also be used as suggestive of drawings from plants. However used would bring the pupils in contact with nature and encourage habits of observation. There is, undoubtedly, a wide field for the employment of this book. It is sold at \$4.50. The publishers are G. P. Putnam & Sons, New York.

## TIMELY THOUGHTS.

Wherever it is practicable hotbeds for very early vegetables, such as radish and lettuce, can be made this month. This can be done in the southern and in some of the States of the middle region. In the more northern portion of the country this work cannot well be commenced before the middle of February. But everywhere the work of preparation for spring gardening can go on in some way; by making plans, by preparing materials, by studying catalogues, and making out lists of seeds and ordering them. The successful gardener will do all his work twice—once with his head and once with his hands. It makes a great difference whether work has been well thought out in advance of its actual execution.

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NASTURTIUM SALAD.—The preparation of nasturtium leaves as a salad has long been practised, now it is said that the flowers may be similarly used. A California exchange says an exceedingly delicate salad is made of nasturtium flowers served on lettuce leaves. Make a note of this and try it next summer. The green seed capsules are sometimes used in pickles.

**FLOWERS FOR REMEMBRANCE.**

"When heaven grows dim and faith seeks to renew  
The image of its everlasting bower,  
I know no argument so sweet as through  
The bosom of a flower."

Among the many beautiful word-pictures that Dickens gave us, none are more touching than the picture of Little Nell and her grandfather at work among the neglected graves in the old churchyard, picking "the long grass and nettles from the tombs," thinning "the poor shrubs and roots," making "the turf smooth," and clearing it of "the leaves and weeds;" and of Little Nell's talk with "the schoolmaster," who comforted her by his assurance "that nothing innocent and good that dies is forgotten," and who told her that "if the good deeds of human creatures could be traced to their source, much charity, mercy and purified affection would be seen to have their growth in dusty graves."

"I love to walk in the cemetery," I heard a good woman say once, pointing to the flowers on the graves, "I see so much love there." She was right and "the schoolmaster" was right also.

The best memorial is "the niche in the heart," where all noble aspirations are cherished, and where are kept the sweet Bible words, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Flowers for remembrance are beautiful symbols of that better, intangible memorial.

They are symbols, too, of the great hope and trust that are a part of our thought of our dead.

Flowers that do not wither quickly are the most desirable for remembrance. Petunias last a long time, and when the blossoms fade, the buds often open, covering the lost beauty. Mignonette, achillea, forget-me-nots, ageratum, pansies, calendulas, asters and pinks have also the recommendation of retaining their freshness and beauty a long time.

Flowers in white and purple are depressing to the sick and sad if unmixed with more cheerful colors; so among our flowers for remembrance, let some blossoms in gay colors have a place, suggesting a bright hope to our own hearts and to those who pass by with sorrowful thoughts.

Myrtle, ivy, and Wandering Jew, if well cared for, are as beautiful for remembrance, to many eyes, as flowers.

Gardening.

Palms are even more desirable, as they have not only the charms of grace and beauty, but that of hopeful suggestion, speaking at once of victory—victory over pain, over sorrow, over death. The beautiful Gothic chapel at Mount Auburn was never more lovely than this summer, decorated with many magnificent palms. But beautiful and suggestive

as palms are, most of us must seek something less expensive; and as "the niche in the heart," behind the plants and the flowers, determines their value, the simplest gifts are often the most precious.

One spring day, on Nathaniel Hawthorne's grave, in the lovely Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at Concord, there were some simple bunches of wild houstonia. They doubtless meant as much gratitude and appreciation for his work, as would a stately palm.

The begonia, with a white waxy blossom, is easily cultivated, as a cutting is rooted with little difficulty; and both the leaves and flowers are not only pretty, but have the quality of endurance. If placed in water carefully, they retain their freshness many days. Ferns have such a delicate grace and beauty that we would gladly mix them with our flowers for remembrance, if they did not fade so quickly. Many of them must be passed by, unless it is possible to renew our bouquets often. There are some, however, that retain their freshness a long time. Among these is the delicate Dicksonia, that grows abundantly along some country roads.

It is not always necessary to place "flowers for remembrance" upon the graves of those we love, or beside the pictures of our dear dead. We can cultivate the flowers, pick them and arrange them for remembrance. Some we can place in the cemetery, where rest our dead; some beside their pictured faces; others, in remembrance also of our dead, we can carry to the old, the poor, the rich, and the sad, bearing in mind Rose Hawthorne Lathrop's sweet words:

"The tender thoughts we nurture for a loss  
Of mother, friend, or child, oh! it were well,  
To spend this glory in the earnest eyes,  
The longing heart that feels life's present cross."

EVELYN S. FOSTER.

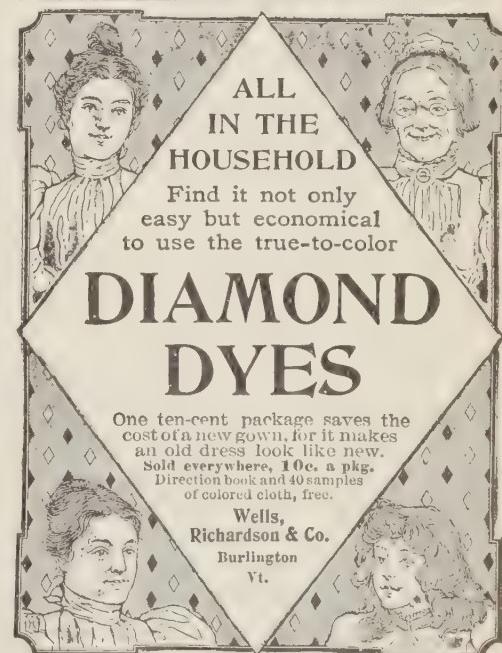
\* \* \*

*IPOMÉA* "Heavenly Blue," while still in pots before planting-out time, gave a few flowers of more than usual beauty. When planted out in good soil, they spent all summer in producing vines, and were caught by the early fall frosts still making growth, but no flowers. A visitor stated that she had had it in bloom nearly all summer in a window box. This would seem to prove that it requires either poor soil or root restriction to flower well in our northern climate.

E. R. DURKEE & CO.,  
Condiments of Every Description.

**CARE OF PALMS.**

Several kinds of palms are quite suitable as house plants, and their employment for this purpose is rapidly increasing. They appear to do well with very little care and always make a fine appearance. They should be placed where they will have a fair amount of light—but not direct sunshine. In parlors with lace curtains before the windows they seem to be suited, though at north and west windows it would be best to have no shade between the plants and the glass. They will after a time show failure if kept on a table in the center of a room or in a dark hall. They are not particular about any exact degree of temperature; in living rooms where the temperature, according to different customs, usually ranges two or three degrees below seventy, or three or four degrees above, they seem to do equally well, the night temperatures being several degrees below those named. The soil should be kept moist and therefore, as a rule, daily watering is needed. However, it is best not to overdo this matter and keep the soil sodden, or to have water standing in the saucer or jardiniere. Better to let the soil become somewhat dry and then give a good supply of water, sufficient to thoroughly wet it. The fronds and stems should be kept clean by occasional sponging, and scale insect never should be allowed to fasten upon the plants and increase. If they appear they should be promptly removed.



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## STORING VEGETABLES.

THE best way to store vegetables in winter is quite a problem to people who raise several kinds. Simply dug and placed in the cellar, many of them will shrink and wither, becoming unfit for use in a short time, while others will rot and decay. These latter are not only ruined themselves, but soon infect the sound ones, as well as being a poison to the inmates of the house. For beets, turnips, carrots, parsnips, salsify and winter radish, the best plan is to place them in barrels or boxes in alternate layers with dry sand or earth. Stored in this way they retain their natural moisture, which keeps them plump and fresh until spring. As the fall rains often come at the time the dry sand is needed for this use, it is well to lay in a supply during the dry season.

When the roots are placed in soil which is at all damp, it causes them to start to grow, which is a great detriment to their keeping qualities.

Potatoes do well enough in bins or barrels, which should be kept covered to exclude the light, as the top ones soon turn green and become bitter and unfit for use when exposed to it. Onions need only to be kept dry and not piled too thick, as they are inclined to heat when many are placed together. When spread thinly on boards in a fairly dry cellar they will keep nicely.

Squash and sweet pumpkins must be kept dry, and when one has not a favorable cellar for keeping them, it is a good plan to fasten shelves to the sills at the top of the cellar, so they will be directly under the floor. That is the driest place in the cellar and generally none too warm for them.

Cabbage is inclined to rot unless stored very carefully. We hang them up by strings to nails driven in the sills overhead, but a supply for late winter and spring use can be buried in a barrel or pit outdoors. The barrel is sunk almost its whole depth in the ground, only a few inches being left out at the top: this is banked up so it is even with the top of the barrel and slopes away from it on all sides, the object being to carry off the surface water. The cabbage heads are cut from the stalks and packed in the barrel with the stalk ends up, and when full the barrel is covered with a close fitting cover that will keep out water. Something can be thrown over it to protect the cabbage from the extreme cold,—hay, straw or corn stalks, or even dry earth. The cabbage will be as solid and tender in spring as when stored in the fall.

When storing vegetables we always place some horse radish roots in a box of earth, for use during the winter. It is dug the last thing before the ground freezes, and is then as strong and fresh as when dug outdoors in spring. Being buried in earth it keeps sound and fresh all winter and does not start to grow until late in spring.

## THE KERRIA OR CORCHORUS.

THE Japanese globe flower and its varieties, or Kerria Japonica, are hardy deciduous shrubs. Both the single and double forms are old garden favorites. They are free-flowering shrubs, attaining a height of from three to five feet, and forming spreading bushes three or four feet in diameter, having pointed leaves and bright yellow flowers which are freely produced throughout the summer months. All are well adapted for large flower borders, or for groups or single specimens on the lawn.

Although the kerrias will do well in any soil and situation, yet no shrubs will better repay a little care and attention. An occasional top dressing of good stable manure applied during the winter months will be decidedly beneficial. Little or no pruning will be required, as they do best when permitted to assume their natural form of growth, but it is advisable to remove all dead wood and weak shoots. Propagation is effected by a careful division of the older plants and when this is done the operation should be performed as early in the spring as possible, just before the plants start into growth.

KERRIA JAPONICA has handsome, bright green, finely-toothed foliage, and show single, yellow flowers about the size of a five cent piece. It blooms freely and continuously from July to October.

K. JAPONICA FLORE PLENO has very double, globular, deep yellow flowers, which are freely produced.

K. J. ARGENTEA VARIEGATA. The silver-leaved globe flower is a dwarf variety from Japan, with small, green foliage distinctly edged with white. It is best adapted for the mixed flower border, as

it is of dwarf growth, attaining a height of from eighteen to twenty inches. One of the prettiest of dwarf shrubs.

K. J. RAMULIS AUREIS is a very curious variety of dwarf growth, having its stem distinctly striped with yellow and green, and on this account it attracts considerable attention during the winter season when destitute of leaves.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

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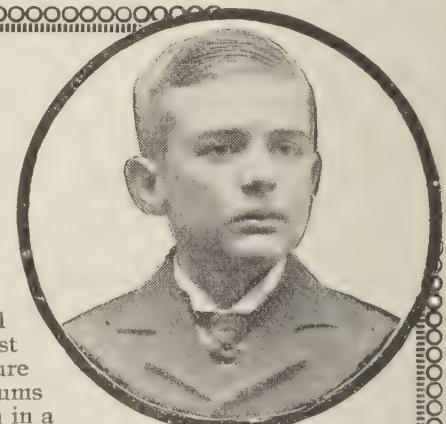
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other bright, persevering boys can do and make money. Though only fifteen years old he owns and manages a very successful poultry business. Recently at the largest poultry show ever held in America, his pure bred fowls won three first, five other premiums and eleven special awards. Yet he began in a very small way. Parents cannot start their boys or girls in an easier, more healthful, or more profitable employment to cultivate business habits, than poultry raising. All that they need to learn about it is taught by the helpful, practical matter published in



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BOSTON, MASS.

### THE CEMETERY AS A WORK OF ART.

A paper with this title was read by Mrs. Fanny Copley Seavey before the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents, at St. Louis, in September of last year. The great improvements in modern cemeteries in this country have been brought about, within the last fifty years, in connection with the aim to make such grounds express the best landscape effects. In all of our best and most noted cemeteries such effects may be seen, but these views are fragmentary and do not include the grounds as a whole. It has been impossible, owing to long established prejudices, for the landscape gardener to embody his ideal in any of these grounds.

The desire to exhibit marble and granite has been brought under restraint in some of the best cemeteries, but only partially so. The work of education among the people must go on until they are able to perceive and appreciate the transcendent superiority of a beautiful landscape over a field cut up with railings, copings and hedges, and a collection of monuments and stones. The following extracts from the paper referred to, will give the writer's main thoughts:

It is said of the master landscape painter, Corot, that what he wanted to express in painting was "not nature's statistics, but their sum total; not her minutiae, but the results she had wrought with them; not the elements with which she had built up, (note the expression), had built up a landscape, but the *landscape itself*"—that is a certain broad effect—and that he "created landscapes out of the elements which in nature's presence he had stored in his sketch book and in his memory. He but completed the beautiful messages she had been suggesting here and half revealing there."

The landscape gardener also composes and builds up landscapes and the artists among them do so from nature's own suggestions by carefully working out and combining hints that they have noted in woodland rambles, from fleeting glimpses of natural beauty gained from the window of a railway train, from careful study of masses of foliage, from analytical examination of shadow effects, from all the data that his artistic eye has gleaned and that he has stored in his note book and his memory, reinforced in this day by photography.

True, he must be hand in glove with the elements that compose his picture for they correspond to the painters pigments, they are his medium of expression, and it goes without saying that he must have perfect control of them before he can express anything; just as we must have a vocabulary before we can make our ideas understood. But, on the other hand, he must have something in mind that he intends to express, a beautiful effect in nature that he wishes to set before the world, or his materials are useless; just as one may know lots of words, but having no idea to present, they avail nothing.

So, the landscape gardener strives to express some one of natures phases, and to secure it he knows how to subordinate detail to the broad general effect. He never loses sight of the basic truth that the whole is greater than any of its parts. In a word he studies analytically, but he treats his work synthetically.

To apply these rules to cemetery work ought not to be difficult.

First, as Downing said, "let not the individual consider only what he wishes to do in his folly, but study the larger part that nature has done in her wisdom, viz: do not strive to unmake the character she has stamped on a piece of ground." This may be taken to apply more especially to the surface of the ground. Then, as to planting he further emphasizes the same truth by saying explicitly "that true art in landscape gardening selects from the natural materials abounding in any location its best sylvan features, and by giving them a better opportunity than they could otherwise obtain brings about a higher beauty of development and a more perfect expression than nature herself offers." But the sort of man we have in mind does not forget, as Prof. Goldwin Smith once accused some one of doing, that he is only the editor and not the author of Nature.

But the matter is, unfortunately, less simple than it seems, because cemetery esthetics are seriously handicapped by time-honored customs old enough and bad enough to be set aside as obsolete; by preconceived notions; and by man's vanity and selfishness expressed in a material burden of stones that leave the artist very nearly helpless.

General education as to what constitutes a fit burial place is the principal hope for relief from these unfortunate conditions. Like all artificial landscapes, a cemetery needs to be treated as a whole. But it is almost invariably considered as an aggregation of lots and divided up with the precision and almost the decision of a checker board.

Lot owners must be brought to look at the matter in a larger way than is customary before any marked improvement will be seen, for with them, as has been said, largely lies the relief sought. They must come to understand that each lot unostentatiously takes its place in the making of the broad picture; and that each is individually good only as it fills its place in that picture.

All who feel an interest in the subject can do something toward diffusing the dawning light of the 20th century idea of what are fitting burial places and memorials for the dead and thus help to invest it with a more wholesome environment. And perhaps there is no better method than by endeavoring to establish the sentiment that it is better to own a share in a landscape than a lot in a cemetery.

In the minds of many, perhaps of most people, a lot means an angular block. Being thought of as a square it comes to be treated likewise, and, unless some restraint interferes, its angularity is emphasized by definite boundary lines with the reduplicated rectangularity we are all familiar with.

How much better to own a share in a landscape unencumbered by conventional stones and undefaced by gaudy carpet beds, neither of which have a place in any known variety of natural landscape; a share in a place so charming that a Corot, an Inness, or a Tyron would wish to paint it.

Doubtless ownership in landscapes as famous as paintings by celebrated artists would soon develop the feeling that an artistic landscape, that is to be perpetually cared for as a work of art, is in itself the most fitting memorial for all who sleep therein; that noble, living, growing trees are appropriate monuments to immortal souls that have passed to a higher life where they, too, are still growing; and it seems reason-

able to suppose that the right of interment in such landscapes would come to have a value at least comparable to sepulture in Westminster. \* \* \* \* \* For the cemeteries of the future will be, as I have tried to outline, works of art; consistent, harmonious landscapes each complete and perfect of its kind; there will be no visible divisions, for lots will melt into each other, plantations of shrubs being placed where the unity of the scheme demands, spreading over parts of many lots, and even over the graves themselves, for they will be level with the surrounding surface; there will be splendid trees, for they are part of a landscape and are fitting as memorials, but they will stand only where the composition of the picture demands trees; many lots will have neither shrubs nor trees,

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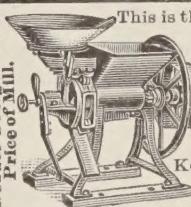
### Churning Done in One Minute.

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for they will be part of the open expanses that are the basis of good landscape art, and are as essential to it as what we call the sky is, in its relation to the starry worlds around us; not every lot will have a monument, but such works of sculptural art as "French's Death and the Sculptor" and kindred dreams of beauty will readily be given a suitable setting because they will never be too numerous and are in harmony with the atmosphere of these landscape homes of the dead; records will be kept and limits will be invisibly marked, but in these fair pictures there will be no headstones, because the people will have realized—at last—that money is better spent in perpetuating lovely landscape memorials than in setting up unsightly blocks of stone—just because some one has them for sale. There may be inconspicuous markers but nothing more. In short, a drive to one of these coming park grounds will be like the one spoken of in Miss Alcott's "Little Women" where the visitors felt they were passing through a "long gallery filled with lovely landscapes." \* \* \*

Better the wind swept height of lofty mountain range,  
Bright sun, sweet air, the moonbeam's wondrous light,  
Or starry cells 'neath opal seas that change,  
Than somber stones that press to endless night;  
Better the grassy glade blessed by the sun and dew,  
Where the long shadows lightly come and go,  
Where leafy dome and spire uplift the thought,  
And soaring bird, aloft from all below,  
Carries it on, until a vision's caught  
Of those celestial landscapes of the blest,  
Where souls immortal find eternal rest.

\* \*

#### GOVERNMENT SEEDS.

The disgraceful distribution of seeds by the United States Government is noticed in the last report of the Secretary of Agriculture. It is very much to the credit of secretary Morton that he has done all he could in his office to stop this wasteful favoritism; and in his efforts he has been supported by President Cleveland. It is a standing disgrace to our Congress to favor the rascally business. The Secretary says:

The seeds distributed gratuitously by the Government during the fiscal year closing on the 30th of June last weighed a little over 230 tons. The cost of carrying them through the mails was over \$70,000. They occupied thirty mail cars in transportation.

Each Congressional quota contained seed enough to plant more than 163½ acres.

The 10,125,000 packets of vegetable seeds cost the Government \$75,000, while the transportation of the same through the mails added the sum of \$74,520, making a total cost directly to the Government of \$149,520 for the gratuity, paid for by money raised from all the people, and bestowed upon a few people.

He further states:

For the year ending June 30, 1897, it is safe to say that each Congressional quota will be nearly double what it was in 1896. And careful estimates make it obvious that the gratuitous distribution of seed by the Government during the year 1897 will amount at retail price valuation to more than \$2,000,000.

The great expense of the seed distribution is saddled upon the people by a certain proportion of Congressmen for their special benefit. It is a case of national robbery that the people should demand to be stopped, and they should personally make their wishes known on this subject to their representatives in

Congress. President Cleveland in his last message said in relation to this subject:

In my opinion the gratuitous distribution of seeds by the department as at present conducted ought to be discontinued. No one can read the statement of the Secretary on this subject and doubt the extravagance and questionable results of this practice. The professed friends of the farmer, and certaialy the farmers themselves, are naturally expected to be willing to rid a department devoted to the promotion of farming interests of a feature which tends so much to its discredit.

\* \*

#### LILIES AMONG SHRUBS.

A writer in an English periodical notices the effect of *Lilium candidum* in bloom when planted among dark-leaved shrubs, such as the purple-leaved filbert, and low-branched trees of *Prunus Pissardii*. "The result," he says, "is very beautiful, the deeply colored leafage intensifying the purity of the bold spikes of spotless flowers. A very good way to plant *L. candidum* is amongst shrubs of various toned foliage, but to get the chocolate colored kinds behind the lily to throw into relief the dense masses of bloom." This is a good suggestion, but it applies to cases of planting other than those where dark leaved plants can be had as a back-ground; only let there be a back-ground of plants of some kind. Green is very effective. Shrubs when planted in beds or close groups sometimes lose their lower leaves and do not afford a good back-ground. We have seen small evergreens, such as *Arbor vitæ* of different varieties, retinisporas and junipers, introduced among shrubs to show off the flowers of perennial plants set in front of them.

\* \*

**SETTING BLACKBERRIES.**—A writer in *American Gardening* suggests that "setting blackberries three to four feet apart in continuous row, cultivating and hoeing thoroughly, gives better results than planting 7 x 7 feet and cultivating both ways."

\* \*

#### Another Smart Woman.

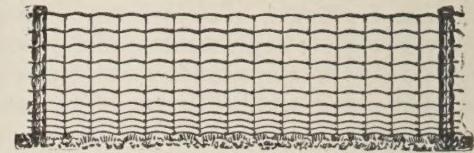
My husband is poor but proud and he does not want me to work; as I have nothing to do I get restless, and after reading in your paper Mrs. Russell's experience selling self-heating flatirons I concluded I would try it. I wrote to J. F. Casey & Co., St. Louis, Mo. and they treated me so nicely that I felt very much encouraged. As soon as I got my sample Iron I started out and sold eight Irons the first day, clearing \$12. I have not sold less than eight any day since, and one day I sold seventeen. I now have \$225 clear money, and my husband does not know I have been working, but I am afraid he will be mad when I tell him. Have I done right, or should I quit work and leave him to struggle alone?

AN ANXIOUS WIFE.

You are doing just' right, your husband should be proud of you, go right ahead and show the world what an energetic woman can do. That self-heating iron must be a wonderful seller, as we hear of so many that are succeeding selling it.



**SEED SOWING**—Do not fail to sow seeds of pansy, verbena, cyclamen, tuberous begonia, carnation, coleus, and such plants as are desired for the purpose of foliage, as early as possible.



#### Are You Insured?

Strange that a man will insure his buildings against fire and lightning, which come so seldom and yet take chances on destruction of crops and other losses arising from inefficient fences. **Page fence is a permanent investment and the interest on that is the cost for absolute safety.** Write for proofs.

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#### How the Dipper Saved the Farm.

Father was sick and the mortgage on the farm was coming due, I saw in the Christian Advocate where Miss A. M. Fritz of Station A., St. Louis, Mo., would send a sample combination dipper for eighteen two cent stamps, and ordered one. I saw the dipper could be used as a fruit jar filler; a plain dipper; a fine strainer; a funnel; a strainer funnel; a sick room warming pan and a pint measure. These eight different uses makes the dipper such a necessary article that I went to work with it and it sells at very near every house. And in four months I paid off the mortgage. I think I can clear as much as \$200 a month. If you need work you can do well by giving this a trial. Miss A. M. Fritz, Station A, St. Louis, Mo., will send you a sample for eighteen two cent stamps—write at once.

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**VICKS MAGAZINE, Rochester, N. Y.**

**THE ASTER DISEASE.**

A peculiar disease has made its appearance, within the last two or three years, on asters. A few extracts are here given from a paper on this subject, by Wm. E. Chappell, read before the Rhode Island Florists and Gardener's Club, at Providence, last September.

Three years ago I first discovered that many of my plants, when about ready to develop flower buds, began to wilt as if thirsting for water. Upon examination I found that the trouble could not be due to lack of water, as I had them under perfect control, so far as results from extreme drouth were concerned. I then examined the root, which I found to all appearance to be in a good healthy condition.

I decided to change their position the next year and grow them in another part of the field, to see if I would get any different effect. But alas! the same result crowned my efforts, this being the second year of failure, and the disease, or whatever you may choose to call it, seemed to be more apparent.

Upon examining the plant I found at the base of the stalk near the soil, extending about two inches in length, a brown appearance. This I cut in two and found it to be dead wood. I called this to the attention of several florists and gardeners that had been in the business many years more than I, and was surprised at the

diversity of opinion. One said it was caused by over-watering; another, by drouth; another said the soil was not right for them; another said that the seed was not properly matured when gathered. A number said they did not know what the matter was. I heartily agreed with the latter, and do honestly think they told the truth.

The Branching Aster, being of a strong, robust habit, was found to be least susceptible to the disease. More diseased plants were found during the hottest weather than in spring and fall. Mulching proved a great benefit during the extreme hot weather, keeping the ground cooler.

The appearance of the disease is thus stated:

I also made cross and elongated sections of diseased and healthy plants. There was no material difference in the looks of the two sections. The disease seemed to be between the outer skin or bark and the cane or stalk. In the healthy section the pulp seemed to be bright and crystallized like gum camphor, while those of the diseased seemed to be of entirely different nature. The granulations were very imperfect, considerably enlarged, looked very much like fermenting scum on a stagnant pool, and were of a putrid nature.

And this is the conclusion:

After much study and examination of the diseased parts as compared with the healthy, I arrived at a conclusion. It is this: I believe the aster disease is a fungus growing between the outer skin or bark and stalk. And as congestion takes place the pores or channels through which the sap flows are clogged and the plant dies for want of food, just the same as we would if our throats were stopped and we could not feed the stomach.

I have diagnosed the aster disease and am perfectly satisfied with the result. The cause and remedy I shall leave to wiser heads than mine.

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**SOME ROSES.**

A few weeks since the *Rural New Yorker* contained the following interesting items concerning certain varieties of roses:

CLOTHILDE SOUPERT, during the past season, has again proved itself one of the best possible roses for bedding. It has a very neat habit, and the flowers are produced freely and continuously. We have a good report of the Pink Soupert also.

GOLDEN GATE ROSE.—Among worthy roses not very largely grown in the cut flower trade is the Golden Gate. The color is creamy flesh shading to salmon, a very pleasing and delicate shade, and the blooms last, when cut, better than any other rose we know. It is a free bloomer.

THE METEOR ROSE, now the most popular crimson variety grown for forcing, is an example of the uncertainty of all things floral. Some years ago, a Philadelphia florist purchased the entire stock of the Puritan, a new

white rose, from its English originator, paying a very large sum for it. When the English rosarian sent over the Puritan, he "threw in," as a bonus, the stock of Meteor, saying frankly that, while an attractive flower, he did not expect it to possess any value as a trade variety. Every one took it at the raiser's valuation until an enterprising florist discovered that all the poor Meteor needed was a higher temperature than ordinary Teas or Hybrid Teas. It is now so successfully grown that General Jacqueminot is very little used as a forcing rose. The magnificent Puritan, with which the Meteor traveled to this country in the capacity of poor relation, has proved worthless as a forcing rose, and so subject to mildew that it is of little use outside; it is almost entirely dropped from American cultivation.

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**A Good Windmill—Make it Yourself.**

I saw one of the People's windmills which I saw recommended in your paper recently, it only cost me \$9.40 and is a splendid mill; my well is deep, but it pumps it all right and with very little wind; the neighbors all like it, and as I am a kind of a carpenter, I have agreed to put up nine mills all ready, on which I can make a nice profit, and there are many others for whom I can put up mills this fall. I don't see why every farmer should not have a windmill, when they can make it themselves for less than \$10; anyone can get diagrams and complete directions for making the windmill by sending 18 two-cent stamps to pay postage, etc., to Francis Casey, St. Louis, Mo., and there can be dozens of them put up in any locality by anyone who has the energy to do so.

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## CLEMATIS DISEASE.

Editor Meehan notes that the clematis disease that sometimes affects and kills the plants of Clematis Jack-manni, and which is the attack of a fungus at the root, occurs most frequently in connection with plants that are one or two years old. He encourages replanting with the hope that the plant may pass the age when it is liable to attack, and adds: "There is scarcely anything more beautiful than this variety of clematis, and many growers would not mind planting a few times, if they felt sure that after reaching a certain age the plant would have immunity. As with the Fire Blight, no preventative has yet been made known."

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PLANT INSECTS.—House plants are very liable to become infested with green fly and red spider at this season. The heat and dryness of living rooms is favorable to their increase. Syringing with weak tobacco water will rid the plants of the first, and with clear water the last.

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